



Sunday School Lesson # 13 for Sunday, August 31, 2008

Lesson Title: "Whose worldview are you following?"

Lesson Text: 2 Peter 2:1-3, 17-20

The Lesson BLUEPRINT



Introduce the lesson by stating, *"This is the 13th lesson we will look at throughout the summer months during Sunday School which relate directly to our church-wide summer emphasis called "Extreme Makeover: Church edition." All summer we will be finding ways that God wants to 'makeover', renovate, and change our lives and ultimately our church so that we might better fulfill His purposes, reach more people for Christ, and minister to more people in His love."* Last Sunday, our pastor preached on how God speaks to us and tries to communicate with us daily. Today we want to think more about the renovations God has for our lives and our church in the coming weeks as we look at how God is trying to speak to you today.

* Have everyone open their Bibles to 2 Peter 2:1-3 & 17-20. Read the entire. (Note: They will need to use their bibles every week to look up and study the scripture. This is a good habit for all class members. Encourage their bringing their bibles weekly to Sunday School).

Teacher's Bible Commentary

This commentary is intended to give you the teacher greater insight into the entire corpus on the passage before we actually make practical lesson suggestions and plans.

In our passage, the Apostle Peter is writing to churches in Asia Minor in an effort to instruct them in the things of the Lord. He is reminding the people of the importance of God's Word and the power God's Word has in the lives of those believers who trust and obey God's Word. In Chapter 2, Peter introduces the idea of false prophets. He is warning the people that there will always be those people, groups, sects, and leaders of various ideologies and philosophies who will attempt to persuade people to following them or their way of life. These false prophets simply attack our lack of Biblical knowledge in an effort to move us out of God's will and into their plans.

In America, we are surrounded on every side by false prophets/prophetesses, false ideologies, and false philosophies to the point that American people are confused. On the one hand, we are told from the media to the school room that there is no such thing as absolute truth. Then, along comes someone who will tell you that they are the only ones who speak the truth. The result in America is mass confusion. Americans are infected by 6 predominant worldviews that go completely against the truth of God's Word and the will of God for our lives. Yet, as we study these false worldviews today, you will discover that some are even prevalent among the people of God. When this is the case, a Christian is not effective for the Lord and will forfeit his/her testimony.

The Lesson TOOLBOX



Now, let's get to the actual practical teaching of the lesson for today:

ASK: *Someone tell me: what is a "worldview?" How would you define a "worldview?"* The answer is as simple as this: **A worldview is the personal lens through which an individual views everything happening all around them in their world.**

While you may not recognize it or even agree, our worldview matters! Our worldviews shapes how we look at life, make decisions, interact with one another, make purchases, arrange our priorities, engage with our families, and our commitment level to the things of God. Clarify our worldview is not just some academic exercise or a philosophical concept, or even an intellectual theory. Our worldview is an integral part of who we are and what makes us think and act like we do. It will determine our relationships, successes or failures, goals and motivations, and could even affect our eternal destination.

Every day we are surrounded by people who want to make changes in their lives. They try all kinds of methods only to find themselves slipping right back into the person they were, the sin they were avoiding, or the old habits of life. Why? For many, it is simply their worldview. So let's ask the question: **What are some of the wrong worldviews that people possess (even people at FBC)?**

WORLDVIEW # 1

“The one with the most toys in the end is the winner.”

This is the worldview of materialism. Materialism can be summed up with one word: **MORE!** The goal of a person's life is simply the acquisition of more and more possessions, things, titles, and stuff.

There are some real dangers with materialism:

- 1. We forfeit Biblical stewardship which results in God's blessings for a worldly model that actually robs us of God's blessings.**
- 2. We create for ourselves debt that we cannot afford.**
- 3. We teach our children and our family members how to hoard, protect, and prioritize possessions over people, time, relationships, spiritual matters, and even God.**
- 4. We take our focus off the things in life that should matter most only to focus on the things in life that really matter the least.**
- 5. We give ourselves a false perception of ourselves in our own minds eyes, inflate our egos, and start to believe that possessions make a person what and who they are.**
- 6. We forget that possessions are temporary and the things we have today can ALL be gone tomorrow.**
- 7. We become wasteful, ungrateful, self-sufficient, and we forget to praise God.**
- 8. We are no longer a people who is generous or benevolent.**

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US: Look in your Bible to Luke 12:22-34 and have someone read this passage aloud. What do you think the Bible teaches us about this materialist worldview?

“The greatest things in life are not things at all.”—Clay Hallmark

WORLDVIEW # 2

“I've got to put me first.”

We live in a society that is filled with the “put me-first” mentality. The serve yourself world wants you to think that life as we know it is really all about you. It is true isn't it? Right here in this SS class are people who are living exclusively for themselves first. They always are putting themselves, their desires, their needs, and their wants ahead of that of their spouse, children, co-workers, fellow church members, and neighbors. They see themselves as if they are the sun and everyone and everything should revolve around them.

Our world caters to and promotes such people. Just think of some TV commercial slogans that promote this idea. Who can think of one?

(“Have it your way.” “We do it all for you.” “Obey your thirst.” “You deserve the best today.”)

For the last 40 years the Baby Boomer generation has been known as the “Me- generation.” This “me-first” ideology and worldview has affected communities, schools, marriages, homes, and work places. This worldview has also crept into the church.

ASK: *Who would give an example of how this “me first” worldview is evident in a church?*

What can we do as individuals and as a class to help overcome this worldview at FBC?

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US: Look at Matthew 16:25...Jesus teaches us that real living truly begins when we give ourselves away, put others first, and invest our lives in them. Jesus is the perfect example of this kind of life.

ASK: *In what ways did Jesus model the right kind of worldview toward others?*

What ways can our SS class model this right kind of worldview toward others?

Having a life of significance does not come from serving yourself; it comes from serving God and others as a priority of life.

WORLDVIEW # 3

“What is right is whatever works for you personally.”

This is a worldview that is also self-serving. This worldview basically means that it doesn't matter if something is right or wrong since there really is no such thing as a moral absolute. It does not matter if someone gets hurt or not. If whatever you are doing, thinking, believing, trusting, or feeling works for you then it is fine. No one can judge you because what is right for you is right, even if no one else agrees or if it affects others negatively.

This is a worldview that is thriving in our multi-cultural, pluralistic American society today. This is a worldview that upholds political correctness and tolerance at all cost. The only way you can be ridiculed or considered by others to be doing something wrong is if you tell them something is wrong.

Note: As pastor of FBC, I often have people get angry with me because I will preach on what the Bible tells us is absolute truth of right and wrong. Because I take strong stands on moral issues that are black and white in God's Word, it makes those in our church who uphold this worldview nervous.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY: Look at Proverbs 14:12...Our ideas and philosophies may sound right in our own ears and in the ears of others, but if they do not agree with the truth of God's Word then WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE WRONG AND WHO NEED TO CHANGE! ***“Whatever works for you”*** leads only to death and judgment by God.

WORLDVIEW # 4

“Do what feels good.”

This is a hedonistic worldview. This is the belief that the most important thing in life is how we feel or our emotions. The main goal of those who possess this worldview is to feel good, have fun, experience pleasure, and to be comfortable at all costs.

The problem with this pursuit is that our emotions and emotional stability to always seek another pleasure continually lacks satisfaction. What satisfies today, doesn't give us quite the same satisfaction tomorrow. What gave us a thrill today doesn't give us a thrill the next day. Therefore, we are always seeking more and more ways to “feel” good, to “feel” happy, to be satisfied. Another problem with such a lifestyle is that it is shallow and temporary at best.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY: Look at Proverbs 21:17...God's Word shows us that satisfaction for life is not found in the temporary pleasures of this world. Life is not to be lived by feelings, but by faith in God. As we live each day in obedience to God, place our faith in Him, and allow ourselves to fulfill His purposes, we discover true, lasting satisfaction for our lives.

WORLDVIEW # 5

“God doesn't really exist.”

While this is certainly not a predominant worldview among people who would come and sit in a SS class, we are surrounded by many people every day who hold to this worldview. This worldview is most often known as naturalism or atheism. A naturalist is a person who believes that all of life (the world and everything in it) is a result of random chance. You

life and my life is nothing more than an accident of nature or we were simply the result of the chaotic cosmos. There is no creator, no designer or design to life, therefore life as we know it has purpose only as we give our own lives purpose. God doesn't exist and if there is some kind of "god", then he doesn't really matter.

Without God, there is no plan or purpose for our lives. Your life doesn't matter. Your only value comes from whatever value you give it. Someone has rightly stated, ***"It takes more faith to be an atheist than it does to simply believe in God."*** All around us we are shown there is a God. There is purpose and design to life. Each of us was created for a purpose by a divine creator.

Even the way our earth moves on its axis, proves the existence of God. If the earth was to move 1 degree, life on earth would die.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY: Read Romans 1:25...

WORLDVIEW # 6

"You are your own God."

This worldview is most often known as humanism. It also is found in New Age philosophies and ideologies that try and link Christian language to a cultic or false religion (See Oprah Winfrey as an example). This is a worldview that makes you think that you are the master of your own fate. You can determine your own ultimate destiny. New Age puts a spin on it like this: *"You are divine. You are within yourself your own God."*

When we did 40 days of Purpose, we learned that we were designed by God to worship. While He is to be the sole object of our worship, this worldview makes you the object of your own worship. Self-made worship is what people have in America today. Therefore, we thwart the divine purposes of God for our lives.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY: Read Romans 1:25 again. . . All around the world people worship gods of their own making- idols- some are made of wood, others stone, some crystals, and others are made out of metal. They worship something they created themselves or that somebody else created.

In America, we do the very same thing. We have our own idols—they are called cars, homes, 4 wheelers, hunting clubs, country clubs, women's community groups, bass boats, golf carts, tree stands, guns, furniture....The Bible is clear that God is truly God and we are NOT GOD!

CONCLUSION:

Each of these false worldviews have severe consequences the moment they become apart of our thinking process. Everyday we are affected by and influenced by these worldviews. Television promotes these worldviews as a norm. They can be taught to our kids without us knowing them in schools, over the internet, and through their peers. These worldviews affect our happiness and success and our futures.

There is only one worldview that is consistent with God's Word. The biblical worldview states that God made each of us on purpose and that He made us for His purposes. God created us to exist for Him. We are to worship and serve Him. We are to fulfill His purposes of evangelism, worship, ministry, discipleship, and fellowship. The only way we every become truly happy and fulfilled in this life is by living for the Lord obediently each day as we follow His will for our lives, live out His purposes, and follow His Word.

The Lesson PUNCHLIST



Teacher, each week you will be asked to make the lesson very practical. Before someone moves into a new home, the builder runs through a "punch list" of things that must be done before the moving date. These are practical lists to be accomplished before the closing. You need to guide your class learners into practical action steps both individually and as a class. We will start next week's lesson with this punch list and we will call it ***"The Lesson Foundation."***

Based on what we have studied today about worldviews, what are 3 things you can do personally this week to make sure that you are guarding yourself and your family against false worldviews?

1.

2.

3.

Based on what we have studied today, what are 3 things we can do as a class this week to hold each other accountable for following God's World view?

1.

2.

3.